

To Dr. Williams, Pyongyang, Seoul Korea. Dec 10
Oct 20 '94

Dear Dr. Williams

49

Saturday, Oct 21st I returned from a trip to Pyongyang of which I wish to give you a little account. On Oct 1st Moffett and I in company with Dr. Hall of the Methodist Mission left on a tour of investigation to find out in what shape our work was, after the recent stirring events. The Japanese had captured the place, and were in such force that we felt no fear about the Chinese army returning, so having obtained passes through the Japanese lines from the Japanese minister we started. All was quiet along the road, and until we neared Pyongyang we saw very little sign of an army having marched through the country. On the last two days though we found several villages that had been entirely deserted by the inhabitants, and the ruins of quite a number of burned houses. In the deserted villages a few Koreans had returned to their homes, and these people seemed so glad to see us. Many of them were so anxious to know if it would be all right for them to remain in their homes - they seemed to be very much afraid of the Japanese.

Dr. Williams
saw
The v
country
He left
later
while
way o
it as
if he
himse
he co
and
stabi
the o
tai ki
much
I re
before
soldier
that
shape
sight
the e
Moffe
but i
and
been f

Dr. tried to ^{persuade them} ~~secure them~~ ^{and I think we did} ~~some what~~ ^{that} ~~all~~ ^{that} ~~would~~ ^{be} ~~well~~ ^{if} ~~they~~ ^{remained}.

The very fact that we were traveling through the country secured to give them confidence.

We left Monday morning, and arrived the next Saturday evening. I made the trip on a bicycle, while Moffett and Dr. Hall rode in the usual way on pony-back. Let me say here that I think it is a good investment for any Korean missionary if he intends to do much itinerating to provide himself with a good bicycle. For by so doing, he can save not only money, but much time and strength. I would always reach our stopping place from one to two hours before the others, and would have that time for talking, book-selling, or resting, and would be much less fatigued by the day's journey.

I reached the city some two or three hours before the others, and found it full of Japanese soldiers, with hardly a Korean in sight.

Went first to our house to find out in what shape Moffett's things were in, and found a sight to behold. Our Koreans had all fled to the country, and the place was deserted. Of Moffett's things there was absolutely nothing left, but the store, which some wretch had smashed, and a few tracts scattered everywhere, which had been ^{passed} over, and tramped and kicked about.

A K S . A F E T Y ^ F I L M ^

until the place looked as if a water cyclone had passed through it. The house was unharmed, for which we were thankful. From our place I went to Dr. Hall's property, and found everything here all right. His Koreans had remained in the city, and living with them was a Japanese Christian doctor, belonging to the Japanese army. In walking about the city after the battle, ^{the} ~~he~~ came across this house and discovered that the Koreans who lived in it were Christians. He made it known that he too was a Christian, and was kindly invited in, and asked to stay there while he remained in the city. He accepted the invitation and through his influence, bad Japanese soldiers with looting propensities were kept out. Dr. Hall has cause to be very thankful to the Japanese missionaries ~~who~~ ^{through} whose influence this man became a Christian.

The first three or four days we spent in viewing the battle field, and it was a most interesting, and in some parts, a most terrible sight. The Chinese had thrown up an immense number of earth works, and had posted themselves in strong positions, but earth works, and strong positions, are of little use, without good fighting men behind them.

Who
has
not
who
poss
strong
demo
this
of a
divi
beh
The
a si
thre
in
the
was
This
ouse
I ca
for
shon
an
Sarov
imp

Whatever else the Chinese soldiers who tried to hold Pyeng yang may be, they certainly did not prove themselves to be good fighters. From what we saw it looked as if most of the positions had been evacuated without a struggle. The Japanese first made a ~~demons~~ cannon demonstration for two days on this side of the river, and while the attention of the Chinese was turned this way, two divisions of the Japanese army got around behind the city and attacked it from the rear. On the morning of Sept. 15th a simultaneous attack was made from three sides, and before night the Chinese in the outer forts were all driven inside the city ~~wall~~ ^{proper}. The key to the whole position was a high hill ^{to the north} inside the city wall. This must be held at all hazards, for if once taken everything was lost. From what I can learn the Chinese did hold this for some time during the day, but that shows no great valor, as the position was an exceedingly strong one, and by an English Saxon army, would have been made almost impregnable. This was taken and after that

The Chinese army had nothing left but to try and escape. On the night of the 15th they left the city, and from all I could see and learn, their leaving was not a retreat, but a mad rush with every man for himself. For miles about the city the country is strewn with pieces of Chinese clothing which were thrown away in the flight. I saw many paper umbrellas which had been cast aside by ~~the~~^{their} fleeing men, and it was interesting to note that a portion of a Chinese soldiers outfit was a chimney paper umbrella. I saw also many bamboo spears tipped with iron points, very frail and very useless as weapons of modern warfare, and also I picked up as a relic of the battle field a large two handed sword, ~~some~~ with a blade about two feet in length and a handle about four, a heavy, ash wood, useless weapon. As I saw these things, I began to realize one of the reasons why the Chinese army was not able to hold Peking Yang. They were armed with good guns to be sure, but they were also loaded down with a lot of useless trappings, which was more than useless in time of battle. Imagine a modern soldier begins to fight, and

at the
the r
I was
drilled
again
but a
a me
insule
a th
were
think
of go
Japs
course
be m
were
and
temp
own
review
compl
This
kind
back
accou

at the same time trying to shield himself from the rain with a big clumsy paper umbrella.

Is it any wonder that an army of unpatented, poorly drilled and badly equipped could make no stand against an opposing force smaller in number, but drilled to almost to perfection, patriotic to a man, and armed with the best of modern implements of warfare. Such was the haste of the Chinese flight that very little indeed was they able to take with them. Some thirty five cannon, and a large amount of gold and silver was captured by the Japanese. There is one interesting fact about some of this gold and silver, which it might be well to mention. It seems from letters that were captured, that a large amount of gold and silver had been sent by the Chinese Emperor to the soldiers who won the victory over the Japanese at A Sau. It will be remembered that at A Sau the Chinese were completely routed and scattered like sheep.

This fact speaks for itself, in regard to what kind of reports Chinese generals must send back to Peking; and this fact too may account for some of the reports in the home.

papers about the Chinese victories in Korea
many of which reports came from Shanghai.
This battle field at Pyung Yang is the
first I have ever visited, and I am not sure that
I care soon to visit another. I saw many of
the dead both men and horses lying just as
they fell. It was three weeks after the battle
and our own can imagine how horrible must have
been the sight, and how fearful the stench.
The dead that fell near the city have nearly
all been covered, but those that were killed
some distance away are still unburied. In
one place I counted over twenty bodies, literally
piled one on top of another lying as they had
fallen. In another place, where a body of
Manchurian cavalry ran into an ambush of
Japanese infantry, the carnage was frightful.
There must have been two or three hundred dead
men and horses that made a swath of killed
about a quarter of a mile long, and several yards
wide. Truly war is a frightful thing, when men
kill each other like that and leave the bodies
of their vanquished foes without a sigh of burial.
He spent three days seeing the battle field, and
then scolded some trying to get our work in shape.

The
mak
acco
Time
time
spread
hear
the
they
lost
doubt
doubt
have
pleas
be a
the
and
also
the
were
were
very

The first thing to do was to clean up the house and make it look habitable again, but before this was accomplished, we nearly lost the place from fire. Three fires in adjoining houses threatened us, but each time, by hard work, we were able to keep it from spreading to our property. As soon as our kinsmen heard that we had come, they began to return from the village to which they had fled, and how glad they were to see us. Poor people, some of them have lost everything they had. There will be considerable destitution in P'yang Yang this winter, and doubtless we will have many calls upon us for ~~help~~ help. The crops in the Ping in province have been very good this fall, so as there is plenty of food in the country, the destitution will be only local.

Before I left we bought again the fields we bought a year and a half ago, and which we were compelled to return. We also bought another house. This house is the one we tried to buy the other time and were unable to do so. Both fields and house were sold at a low price as the owners were very glad to get what they could for them.

On the field is a ^{doctor needed for P'yung Yang} fort built by the Chinese which
will make the site of our probable future home
a place of historic interest. The site is an
admirable one, just outside the wall met of the
city, on a little hill. It is well situated for
work, but far enough from the city to be
away from bad smells and filth. Moffett
expects to remain in P'yung Yang until our
Annual Meeting, which begins this year, on
Dec. 17th. He has gathered about him a
little flock, who seem to be most sincere believers,
and I am sure they are but the earnest of
a grand work yet to be done in P'yung Yang.
I do wish we had a doctor for P'yung Yang —
we need one so much. Moffett joins me in a
most earnest plea that you send a doctor
as soon as possible. I note you once about
a Mr. Albert P. Sledge, of Chicago, a personal
friend of mine, a most earnest Christian, a
good doctor, and a fine man every way.
He is a Homeopathist, but that need not hinder
your sending him to P'yung Yang, as both Moffett
and I would be glad to have him.

I m
cr

He i
four
offer

His
promi
cour
be d

W
tion
She

I wish you would correspond with him. His address

Dr. Albert P. Hedger

ca. ~~SP Hedger~~ SP Hedger M.D.

8 70 Franklin Ave.

Chicago Ill.

He is very much interested in foreign missions work, and has been thinking about offering himself. His pastor is Rev. John M. Fulton

His uncle is SP Hedger M.D. a prominent Chicago physician, and a most earnest consecrated Christian. I do hope something can be done about this man, or some other.

Mrs. Lee has been very well so far, but just now is suffering from a ~~to~~ very hard cold. She wishes to be very kindly remembered.

Very sincerely

Graham Lee.